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SECRETS, SPIES AND SCHOLARS.
Ray S. Cline. Acropolis Books, \$10
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Cline was a top-level CIA official for some 30 years and has briefed every U.S. President since FDR. Currently executive director of Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies, Cline shows himself in this rather drily written memoir to be a stalwart "company man" at heart, defending, with minor reservations, nearly all of the CIA's controversial activities (CIA-backed coups in Iran and Guatemala were just "capers"). His book contains no major disclosures but does provide a detailed "inside" history of the CIA's upper-echelon workings from OSS covert operations in China in the 1940s to the Castro assassination plot and beyond. Cline's proposals for a more effective Congressional oversight system and a structural revamping of the U.S. intelligence community won't satisfy critics but should spark debate. Documents, charts, etc.

[November 30]